What do you want for the I-405 Corridor?

We want to hear your comments and suggestions. Community involvement is key to the success of the I-405 Corridor Program. Here are some ways you can get in touch with us:

Check out our web site at: www.wsdot.wa.gov/l-405

Call our Info-Line: 206.464.6231

To contact a representative: Carol Hunter 206.464.5878 WSDOT

401 2nd Avenue South, #300

Seattle, WA 98104-2887

Give us a hand!

We are doing our best to eliminate duplication, but we need your help. If you got more than one copy of the newsletter, let us know so we can adjust our mailing list.

PROJECT MANAGEMENT TEAM

WSDOT Project Manager Consultant Team Principal Consultant Team Project Manager Environmental Lead Public Involvement Michael Cummings, Office of Urban Mobility Ron Anderson, David Evans Associates Don Samdahl, Mirai Associates Keith McGowan, McGowan Environmental Rita Brogan, Pacific Rim Resources

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1-405 In The News

You may have heard in recent news coverage that the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) has concerns the solutions being studied by the I-405 Corridor Program could hurt wild chinook salmon. As a result, the Program has initiated a dispute resolution process with NMFS to resolve their concerns. In the meantime, having received signed agreement from 23 out of 24 agencies, including other agencies that are responsible for fisheries resources, the Program will proceed with the environmental process (EIS). While discussions with NMFS continue, we will be looking to the EIS to answer many of the questions being raised.

It is the Program's intent to work with NMFS to address environmental concerns while continuing to make progress developing solutions for the Eastside's transportation problems.

The Program Objectives Are To:

- Improve mobility
- Reduce congestion
- Improve livability
- Improve safety for all modes
- Be environmentally responsive
- Develop solutions that can be implemented

What Is I-405's Future? Four Alternatives Defined

After a lot of hard work and spirited discussion, elected officials, citizens, and representatives of jurisdictions in the I-405 corridor have developed four alternative solution sets to address the challenges of I-405. These four alternatives, along with a "no action" alternative, will be carefully analyzed in a programmatic environmental impact statement (EIS). The EIS will allow us to compare how well different solutions work together so that we can optimize the performance of I-405. Community and environ-



Citizen participation and comments from a Spring 2000 open house were an integral part of developing four solution sets.

mental impacts and potential mitigation measures will also be identified (see inside for further information about the alternatives).

Ultimately, a Preferred Alternative will be developed based on the EIS findings and public input. "We know that there is no single silver bullet that will fix all the ills on I-405," said George Kargianis, who chairs the I-405 Executive Committee and serves on the Washington State Transportation Commission. "We anticipate that the Preferred Alternative will be a mix of different transportation solutions that work together for decades into the future."

When it finally takes shape, the I-405 Corridor Program will be the blueprint for a system that will be funded at the federal, state, county, and local levels. While some elements can be implemented fairly quickly, many of the projects will take years before they can be fully implemented. "The partnership established to build a common vision for I-405 must be continued if the vision is to become reality," said Kargianis. "Public involvement and public support are keys to our success."

PROGRAMTIMELINE



Define Problem and Evaluation Method

Completed Spring/Summer 1999



Detailed Environmental Review and Solution Recommendations

Summer/Fall 2000
Detailed Environmental Review of Solutions
Alternatives Posted on Program Web Site
Presentations to Commmunity Organizations

Winter/Spring 2001
Recommend Preferred Solution
Public Workshops & Hearings
Public Opinion Survey

ALTERNATIVE SOLUTION SETS

Alternative 1 – High Capacity Transit/TDM

Transportation Demand Management (TDM) programs will encourage carpool and transit usage, including regional congestion pricing strategies. Roads will be improved for safety and ease of operation, but NO new general purpose (GP) lanes will be added. Transit will be improved by doubling bus service, along with expansion of park-andride and transit centers. A High Capacity Transit (HCT) system on a fixed guideway will be built to serve major activity centers of the corridor. Pedestrian and Bicycle improvements will be made throughout the corridor. Freight Enhancements will be made by improving key arterial freight routes and freeway bottlenecks. Roadway Pedestrian TDM Capacity Transit & Bicyde Freight

Alternative 2 – Mixed Mode with HCT/Transit Emphasis

Roadway

Capacity

TDM programs will be implemented with a focus on carpool and transit incentives.

Road improvements include the addition of one GP lane in each direction on I-405, the addition of one lane in each direction on SR-167, improved arterials and their connections to I-405, and safety and operational upgrades.

Transit will be improved by doubling bus service, along with expansion of park-and-ride and transit centers. An HCT system on a fixed guideway will be built to serve major activity centers of the corridor.

Pedestrian and Bicycle improvements will be made throughout the corridor.

Freight Enhancements will be made by improving key arterial freight routes and freeway bottlenecks.

Transit

Alternative 3 – Mixed Mode

TDM

TDM

TDM

TDM programs will be implemented with a focus on carpool and transit incentives.

Road improvements include the addition of two GP lanes in each direction on I-405, the addition of one lane in

Capacity

each direction on SR-167, improved arterial routes and road connections to I-405, and safety and operational upgrades.

Transit will be improved by doubling bus service, along with expansion of park-and-ride and transit centers. A bus rapid transit system will be built along the HOV lane system throughout the corridor.

Pedestrian and Bicycle improvements will be made throughout the corridor.

Preight Enhancements will be made by improving key arterial freight routes and freeway bottlenecks.

Roadway

Roadway

Transit

Roadway

Roadway

Transit

Roadway

Roadway

Roadway

Transit

Roadway

Roadway

Roadway

Transit

Roadway

Pedestrian

& Bicyde

Freiaht

Freight

& Bicyde

Alternative 4 – General Capacity

TDM programs will be implemented with a focus on carpool and transit incentives.

Road improvements include the addition of one GP lane in each direction on I-405, and the construction of two barrier separated express lanes in each direction on I-405. Also included are improved arterial routes and arterial connections to I-405, and safety and operational upgrades.

Transit will be improved by increasing bus service by 50% and expansion of park-and-ride and transit centers. An HCT system is not part of this alternative.

Pedestrian and Bicycle improvements will be made throughout the corridor.

Freight Enhancements will be made by improving certain arterial freight routes.

Roadway

Pedestrian

Transit

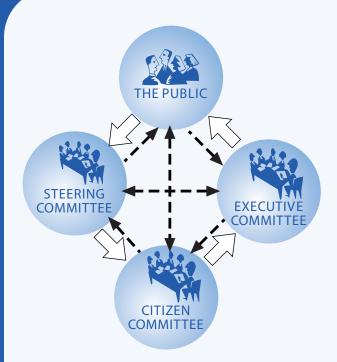
Help Us Move Towards A Solution

Over the next 4 months, the four alternative solution sets and the "No Action" scenario will undergo a detailed environmental review. Public workshops are planned for this winter so you can let us know how we are doing and also share your thoughts with the program's decision-makers.

In the meantime, visit the I-405 website www.wsdot.wa.gov/I-405 to view the four alternatives, to obtain additional information about the solution sets, and to send us your comments.

Both the technical review and public input will assist the I-405 Corridor Program team in developing the best solution set for all. What do you want the preferred alternative to look like? Let us know!

HOW ARE PROGRAM DECISIONS BEING MADE?



The success of the I-405 Corridor Program depends on an unprecedented partnership between local jurisdictions and regional, state, and federal agencies. Three committees have been created to provide direction, community feedback and promote regional consensus:

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE – Local, state, and federal officials will make the final selection of solutions, using input from the public and the other committees. These solutions will then be incorporated into local and state transportation funding proposals.

STEERING COMMITTEE – Technical staff from area municipalities, environmental agencies and transportation providers will identify and screen possible solutions and present findings to the other committees.

CITIZEN COMMITTEE – Interested citizens representing a wide range of business, environmental, freight, and neighborhood constituencies will provide valuable input and feedback on the proposed alternatives.